

Remarks

Consideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9 and 12-26 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7, 13, and 20 being the independent claims. Claims 10 and 11 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

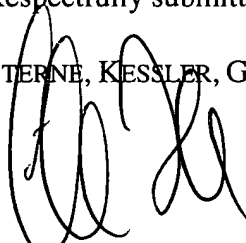
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michael Q. Lee
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,239

Date: 9/5/01

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

Version with markings to show changes made

In the Claims:

Claims 10 and 11 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.